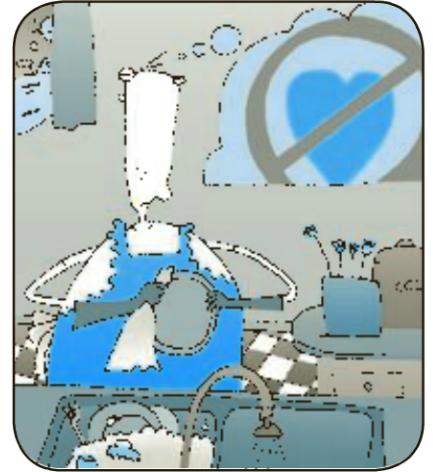


Concrete and Abstract Nouns

Ask my brother to wash dishes, and he'll answer, "Get real!" Actually, dirty dishes are "real" enough. You can see them, feel them—maybe even smell them! **Concrete nouns** name physical things like those dishes. But what if you can't see or touch something? Is love "real"? Of course it is. **Abstract nouns**, such as "love" and "poverty," name things that you can think about but can't see or touch. (See 754.3 and 754.4 in *Texas Write Source*.)



Directions

Underline all the words used as nouns in the sentences that follow. Then put a "C" above each concrete noun and an "A" above each abstract noun. Some words are tricky! They may name either a concrete or an abstract concept. The first sentence has been done for you.

- When we gaze at ^Cstars, we are looking into the distant ^Apast, because the ^Clight from ^Cstars takes many ^Ayears to travel to ^CEarth.
- Some dinosaurs half-buried their eggs in mud, then covered the tops with rotting vegetation to warm them.
- It is an amazing fact that giant redwoods transport water tremendous distances from their roots to their leaves without a pump.
- By performing a dance, a honeybee can tell other workers in the hive where flowers filled with nectar can be found.
- Hummingbirds are not shy; if you wear red clothes, they will fly close enough to get a careful look at you.
- The Constitution guarantees all Americans basic freedoms.
- It was not easy for the original 13 colonies to win those freedoms.
- In fact, many colonists did not like the idea of a rebellion against England.

9. Some continued to declare their loyalty to King George.
10. The Eiffel Tower reminds me of drawings in my geometry book.
11. At the basketball game, one of the players had to leave the game because of an injury.
12. He sprained his ankle when he stepped on someone else's foot.
13. The teams showed good sportsmanship even when the spectators were a little rude.

Next Step Share the results of your work with a classmate. Discuss any differences you may find. Talk about ways you can distinguish between abstract and concrete nouns, and write your guidelines in the space below.
